Train accidents in the Country

285. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of railway accidents which had taken place in the year 1999;

(b) what is the total loss of life and property in these accidents;

(c) how may cases of claims from passengers are pending with the Railways;

(d) what are the-actual causes of these accidents; and

(e) what steps are being taken to prevent such disasters in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Total number of Consequential accidents during the year 1999 was 444.

(b) In these accidents, 529 people were killed and Railway property worth Rs. 76.30 crores (provisional) was damaged.

(c) A total of 593 accidents claims are pending in different benches of Railway Claims Tribunal for the train accidents happened during 1999.

(d) Causes of Accidents:—

Cause	No. of accidents
Failure of Railway Staff	205
Other than Railway Staff	93
Equipment failure	14
Not Established	3
Under investigation	129

(e) Steps taken to prevent accidents are given as below:—

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines,

(ii) Modification of the signaling circuitry is being carried out to minimize chances of human errors in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about 'signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.

(iv) Railway Board has cleared a pilot project of AWS for Tughlaqabad-Mathura section of Central railway on a trial basis.

(v) Walkie-Talkie sets have been supplied to Drivers and Guards of all Passenger carrying trains. The same is presently being supplied to Drivers and Guards of goods trains also and the same is likely to be completed by 31st March, 2000.

(vi) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast clearning machines for track maintenance.

(vii) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.

(viii) For detecting rail fractures and weld failure, 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.

(ix) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(x) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(xi) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(xii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(xiii) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xiv) Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by interdisciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.

(xv) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of simulators for training of drivers.

(xvi) Refresher courses are regularly organized at specified intervals.

(xvii) Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xviii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Grant for Undertaking Broad work between Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore

286. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka had requested for grant of Rs. 80 crores during the Financial year 1998-99 for undertaking Broad work between Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the required amount has been released; and

(c) the likely date by which the project will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The then Chief Minister of Karnataka had requested for allotment of Rs. 80 crores for early completion of this work. In view of acute constraint of resources for gauge conversion